

Battlefield Combat Identification System (BCIS)



MISSION

Provide the materiel solution for positive identification of friendly ground-combat vehicles to minimize battlefield fratricide incidents and enhance combat effectiveness.

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The Battlefield Combat Identification System (BCIS) is a millimeter-wave, question-and-answer combat identification system capable of identifying friendly ground combat vehicles at 150 to 5500 meters ground-to-ground and 150 to 8000 meters air-to-ground. BCIS interrogation is triggered automatically by activating the shooter platform's laser rangefinder or interrogation button, which sends an encrypted, directional query message to the targeted vehicle. If the targeted vehicle is friendly and equipped with BCIS, its transponder answers with an encrypted, omnidirectional friend message. A friend light is illuminated in the gunner's sight, supplemented by voice confirmation. If no answer is received, a voice message indicating "unknown" is provided to the gunner. The gunner then continues the engagement using tactics, techniques, and procedures. The target identification process is completed in less than a second, enabling the gunner to make a rapid fire/no-fire decision at the point of engagement. BCIS is a horizontal technology integration program and an integral part of the Army's digitized battlefield effort. The system incorporates a digital data link (DDL) feature that provides local situational awareness (SA) updates (friend identification, GPS location, and unit identification) to vehicles within one kilometer of each other at five- to six-second intervals. DDL also provides for SA information exchange between vehicles when interrogated. BCIS will be fielded on combat, combat-support, and combat service-support vehicles that operate forward of the brigade rear area.

FOREIGN COUNTERPART

France: Battlefield Identification Friend or Foe

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

None

PROGRAM STATUS

2QFY97 Sixty-two vehicles in the 4th Infantry Division equipped with BCIS participated successfully in the Task Force XXI Advanced Warfighting Experiment at the National Training Center.

FY97-98 Military utility assessment of the system conducted as part of the Joint Combat Identification Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD).

FY99 Development and testing of installation kits for Abrams (M1A1) and Bradley (M2 ODS) completed. Engineering and manufacturing development of BCIS low-cost design hardware completed and a contract for low-rate initial production was awarded.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

FY00 Develop and test installation kits for additional vehicle types.

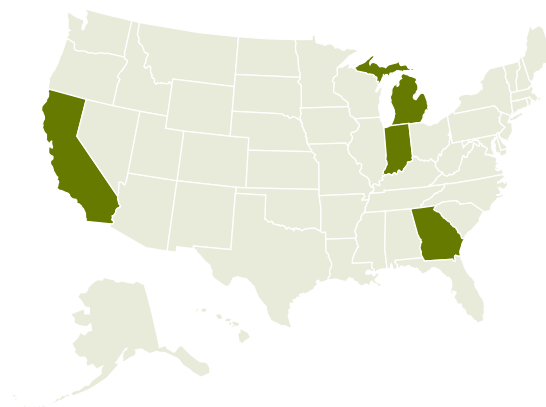
3QFY01 Conduct initial operational test and evaluation.

3QFY02 First unit equipped.

3QFY02 Milestone III decision scheduled.

PRIME CONTRACTORS

TRW (Dominguez Hills, CA)



* See appendix for list of subcontractors

